

01-18-01

GP 1653
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Express Mail No.: EL 451 595 945 US

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Application of: Sinn *et al.*

RECEIVED

Serial No.: 09/463,474

Group Art Unit: 1653

JAN 23 2001

Filed: August 4, 2000

Examiner: D. Lukton

TECH CENTER 1600/2900

For: CONJUGATE FOR DIFFERENTIATING BETWEEN HEALTHY AND UNHEALTHY TISSUE

Attorney Docket No.: 8484-077-999

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1-26 v*

AMENDMENT AND RESPONSE TO RESTRICTION REQUIREMENT

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

This paper is filed in response to the November 14, 2000 Office Action (Paper No. 6), in which the Examiner issued a three (3) way restriction requirement. Please consider the following amendments and remarks.

Additionally, Applicants submit (1) a Petition for one (1) month extension of time to respond to the outstanding Office Action.

AMENDMENTS

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel Claims 3, 12, 14, and 17, without prejudice.

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (Amended) A conjugate for distinguishing unhealthy tissue from healthy tissue comprising a fluorescent compound[, a connector] and a carrier, wherein the fluorescent compound and the carrier are joined via [the connector, and the connector